

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, and 15 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, at page 26, lines 4-16 of the Specification. Claims 21 and 22 are new. No new matter has been added.

Applicants' representative appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Anwah during the recent October 17, 2007 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the interview is incorporated into the remarks below.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0162116 (hereinafter "Read"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include "wherein the voice signals are not input from the external telephone terminal to the voice signal input/output terminal when the voice signals are to be transmitted to another telephone terminal that is not connected to another internet terminal."

As agreed to during the October 17, 2007 personal interview, Read fails to disclose this feature. The VoIP peripheral of Read "converts all POTS telephone calls into VoIP calls and automatically transmits them across the cable network to the intended destination." (See pg. 7, para [0064]). Thus, in Read, every call placed by a user, regardless of whether it is destined for a telephone connected only to the PSTN or to a telephone connected to a cable network as well, is transmitted through the VoIP peripheral and undergoes digital conversion.

In Read, all calls are transmitted through the VoIP peripheral and undergo digital conversion. Therefore, Read does not disclose voice signals not being "input from the external telephone terminal to the voice signal input/output terminal when the voice signals are to be transmitted to another telephone terminal that is not connected to another internet terminal" as called for by claim 1.

Therefore, amended claim 1 is patentable over Read. Claim 15 has been amended to include a feature similar to that included in claim 1. Thus, for the reasons outlined above in reference to claim 1, claim 15 is patentable over Read. Because claims 2-14 and 16-20 depend from either claim 1 or claim 15, they are also patentable for at least the same reasons.

Further, as agreed to during the October 17, 2007 personal interview, Read fails to disclose a "notifying unit outputs the notification signal when the voice signals from the another internet terminal are stored in the memory and the notification signal notifies the presence of a voice message left by the another internet terminal," as called for by claims 21 and 22 and the similar feature of claim 3.

Referring to Fig. 3, Read discloses an answering machine module 310 which functions as a typical answering machine. Messages are digitally stored in the memory 324 and are available for later retrieval by a subscriber. (See paragraph [0065]). However, Read fails to disclose a notifying unit that outputs the notification signal called for by claims 3, 21, and 22.

Further, as agreed to during the October 17, 2007 personal interview, Read fails to disclose "a message notifying unit that notifies the user of a stored voice message when the notification signal is received from the internet terminal," as called for by claim 11 and the similar features of claims 5 and 17.

In Read, the answering machine functionality is provided within the VOIP peripheral and an answering machine is not coupled between a POTS telephone and the VOIP peripheral. (See paragraph [0065]). Thus, Read explicitly teaches away from a telephone terminal having the message notifying unit of claim 11, as well as the similar features of claims 5 and 17.

Further, as agreed to during the October 17, 2007 personal interview, Read fails to disclose a telephone terminal including a telephone line connecting terminal that connects to a

telephone line network and a switching unit that switches a transmission terminal between the telephone line connecting terminal and the voice signal input/output terminal, as called for by claims 5, 9, 11, 13, and 19 and the similar features of claim 17. Moreover, Read fails to disclose the telephone terminal of claim 9.

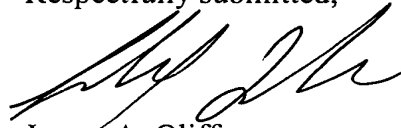
The POTS telephones 120 of Read (Fig. 1) merely receive and transmit analog signals. The POTS telephones 120 do not include the telephone line connecting terminals or the switching units called for by at least claims 5, 9, 11, and 13, as well as the similar features of claim 17. Moreover, the POTS telephones 120 of Read do not correspond to the telephone terminal of claim 9 for at least the additional reasons that the telephones 120 do not have a memory that stores voice messages received from an internet terminal.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Amendment Transmittal

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